

The Supreme Court of South Carolina

Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, Inc., Petitioner,

v.

Kathleen J. Gresham, Respondent.

Appellate Case No. 2015-001836

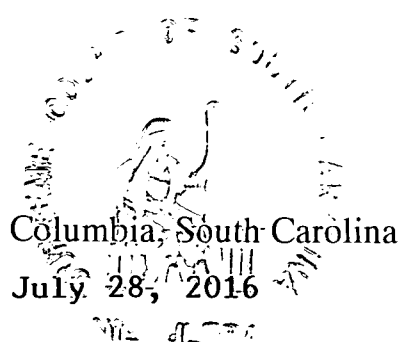
ORDER

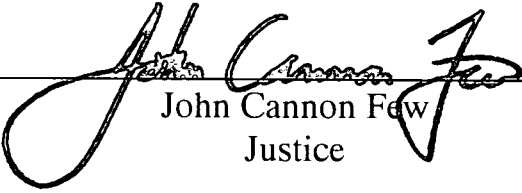
Respondent filed a motion requesting that I recuse myself. She primarily contends I should recuse myself because of rulings I made in my capacity as Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals on a series of motions regarding reconstructing the trial court record when this case was pending before the Court of Appeals. She reargues at length the merits of her position in those motions, and claims that because I did not agree with her I am biased. However, a judge's rulings on previous matters are not an indication of bias, and thus not grounds for recusal. *See Davis v. Parkview Apartments*, 409 S.C. 266, 288, 762 S.E.2d 535, 547 (2014) ("The fact [that] a trial judge ultimately rules against a litigant is not proof of prejudice by the judge" (citation omitted) (alteration in original)); *Christensen v. Mikell*, 324 S.C. 70, 74, 476 S.E.2d 692, 694 (1996) ("To compel recusal, the alleged bias of the judge must be personal, as distinguished from judicial, in nature."); *Mallett v. Mallett*, 323 S.C. 141, 146-47, 473 S.E.2d 804, 808 (Ct. App. 1996) ("A motion to recuse may not be predicated on the judge's rulings in the case before him or on rulings in a related case"); *Reading v. Ball*, 291 S.C. 492, 494, 354 S.E.2d 397, 398 (Ct. App. 1987) ("When no evidence is presented other than claimed 'adverse' rulings by the judge, the judge is not required to recuse himself.").

Respondent does not argue section 14-3-50 of the South Carolina Code (1976) as a basis for recusal. *See id.* (providing "no justice shall preside in any case or at the hearing thereof . . . in which he . . . has presided in any inferior court"). Because I did not preside over the hearing of the merits of Respondent's appeal at the Court of Appeals, section 14-3-50 does not require my recusal.

Respondent also argues that my father once advised her, and she attempted to buy a house I was selling over fifteen years ago. Neither of these supports my recusal.

Because Respondent has presented no basis for my recusal, and because I am aware of no basis for my recusal, the motion is denied.




John Cannon Few
Justice

cc:

Larry C. Brandt, Esquire
Steven W. Hamm, Esquire
Jo Anne Wessinger Hill, Esquire
Paul B. Wickensimer
Kathleen Jennings Gresham